

PATENT SPECIFICATION



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PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

An Improved Apparatus for use when Practising Golf in a Room or elsewhere.

I, ROBERT GRAY, a British subject, of 23, Bentinck Street, Glasgow, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

5 This invention relates to an apparatus for practising golf strokes in a parlour or other interior, or in a garden, or elsewhere, a captive or a free ball being used as may be preferred.

10 The apparatus comprises a stand or frame which is preferably jointed or otherwise fitted together in such manner as to be collapsible for transport. The frame constitutes an upright structure
15 having back stays or supports.

The "course" or "fairway" consists of a canvas or other strip which, at one end, is secured to the frame and is laid down in front thereof in such manner that
20 it lies for a portion of its length at a slight upward inclination. The frame has a canvas or other back extending from the top thereof down to the "course" so as to prevent balls being driven through
25 the apparatus. The "back" may have a rearward inclination. Suspended from the structure at the top thereof are two or more strips of canvas or other cloth which constitute targets and may be
30 coloured green, white, or other colour or colours. At the sides of the structure are canvas or other wings, preferably of triangular shape, the wing at the right hand side being preferably higher than
35 at the left hand side. These wings are for the purpose of catching "sliced" or "pulled" balls. If a captive ball is used

it may be secured to both sides of the "fairway", when practising "driving" or other shots and may be detached when
40 "putting"; or a free ball may be used for all the shots.

Mats are placed upon the canvas "fairway" at the front thereof to hold the latter in position and serve for standing
45 upon and also for "teeing" the ball. These mats may be used except for "putting." When "driving" or for other shots the player may stand upon one of the mats and "tee" the ball on the
50 other mat and he can "drive" with all his force against the target, the ball striking against the target and falling down therefrom on to the inclined floor and then rolling back again for another
55 stroke.

For "putting", a hole or pocket is arranged in the "fairway", preferably at the back of the target, and may have a channel which directs the ball, when it
60 passes thereinto, back to the golfer.

The actual framework may be made of wood or iron or a combination thereof, or it may be made of other suitable material. The "fairway" may be kept
65 taut laterally by means of wooden rods or the like secured to the structure or simply laid down on the floor of the room. The side wings may be sewn or otherwise
70 connected to the "fairway".

Dated this 28th day of July, 1920.

H. D. FITZPATRICK & Co.,
Chartered Patent Agents,
94, Hope Street, Glasgow.

[Price 1/-]

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

An Improved Apparatus for use when Practising Golf in a Room or elsewhere.

I, ROBERT GRAY, a British subject, of 23, Bentinck Street, Glasgow, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to apparatus for practising golf strokes in a parlour or other interior, or in a garden, or elsewhere, a captive or free ball being used as may be preferred.

It has previously been proposed to make a golf practice apparatus comprising a network or equivalent flexible enclosure for the player, having a double or endless flexible back against which the ball is driven, the ball when properly hit passing through one of a series of holes in the front surface of the double back and dropping into a ball-catcher or returning device located between the front and rear surfaces of the back.

The object of my invention is to provide a light and portable golf practice apparatus of improved construction, capable of being easily and quickly dismounted and of being stowed into small space for transport.

To the attainment of this end my improved golf practice apparatus comprises, in combination, a pair of foldable or collapsible frame members, preferably triangular in shape; top and bottom cross-bars for holding the members apart against collapse to form an upright structure, a fabric back extending between the cross-bars; a fabric strip extending forwardly from the bottom cross-bar at a downward inclination to form the "fairway"; and a fabric strip, or strips, constituting a screen against which the ball is driven, freely suspended from the top cross-bar. The screen yields under the impact of the ball and destroys its momentum so that it falls down on to the forwardly extending fabric strip or "fairway" and rolls back to the player.

In a preferred construction of the apparatus a "putting" hole is made in the forwardly extending fabric strip or "fairway" behind the freely suspended strips constituting the screen which latter are arranged in overlapping relationship

and can be thrown back over the top cross-bar to enable putting strokes to be practised, and an inclined trough or equivalent is arranged beneath the hole to deflect the ball to one side of the structure when played into the hole. Canvas or other wings are detachably fitted at the sides of the upright structure for the purpose of catching "sliced" or "pulled" balls.

One form or embodiment of the invention is illustrated, by way of example, on the accompanying drawing whereon:—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the apparatus as arranged for use when practising all strokes but putting strokes.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view seen from the rear and showing the apparatus arranged for practising putting strokes. The figure is drawn to a reduced scale.

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of one of the frame members A in the extended position and Fig. 4 is an end view of same collapsed.

Fig. 5 is a detail of one of the cross-bars for connecting the frame members.

In the drawing, A, A, indicate a pair of frame members spaced a suitable distance apart and retained in position to form an upright structure by a front top bar B and a rear bottom bar C. Each frame member A is made in two parts hinged together at 1, 1 so as to be collapsible, as at Fig. 4. Secured to the ends of the top bar B, are bent rods 2 which engage in eyelets 3 arranged on the front of each frame member on either side of the joint between the upper and lower portions thereof. It will be seen, therefore, that when the top bar B is in position the depending rods 2 lock the side frames against collapse. The back bar C is attached in similar manner to the front bar B at a distance above the base, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

A canvas or other back 4 is attached at opposite ends to the top and bottom bars B and C and also to each frame member as at 5, 5, between the bars. In front of the back 4 and freely suspended from the top thereof are a number of canvas or other strips 6 arranged to overlap one another. These strips, which constitute a screen against which the ball

is driven, are sewn or otherwise secured to the back 4 at the top thereof and hang freely down on to the "course" or "fairway" consisting of a canvas or other strip 7 attached, at one end, to the back bar C and extending at a downward inclination in front of the frame structure. The strip 7 is stiffened along each side by a lath or equivalent 8 and is also hooked by a short chain or the like 9 to each frame member. The forward end of the strip 7 is simply laid along the ground.

At each side of the strip 7 are canvas or other wings 10, 11 which may be sewn thereto and also to the back 4.

When a captive ball is used it is preferably attached to slip rings or equivalent 12 freely mounted on loops or runners 13 along both sides of the strip 7. A hole or pocket 14 is made in the strip 7 behind the screens 6 and an inclined trough or channel 15 of suitable material is provided below same.

To facilitate transport the cross bars B and C are each made in sections held together by sleeve couplings 16 in the manner shown in Fig. 5.

When practising driving and other shots the strips 6 are arranged as in Fig. 1 and mats (not shown) are placed upon the "course" or "fairway" at the front thereof. The player may stand upon one of the mats and "tee" the ball on another. The shot is played in the direction of the strips 6, the second strip from the right (Fig. 1) preferably representing a continuation of the "fairway" and being coloured differently from the others which may represent the "rough". When the ball strikes one of the strips it loses its momentum and falls down on to the inclined "course" 7 whence it rolls back to the player. Should the ball be "sliced" or "pulled" it is caught by the side wings 10 or 11 as the case may be. The screen 11 is cut away as shown to allow the player to carry through the swing of his club and finish the stroke properly. Sufficient space is left between each frame member A and the edge or corner where the adjacent wing meets the back 4 to prevent the ball meeting any solid resistance when driven into the corner.

When putting, the strips 6 are thrown back over the bar B, as shown in Fig. 2, thereby exposing the hole 14 to the view of the player. When the ball is "putted" into the hole it is directed by the trough or channel 15 to one side of apparatus ready for use again.

It will be apparent that the apparatus can be readily collapsed and stowed into small space. The fastenings 5 and 9 are first loosened, then the bars B, C, are withdrawn from the frame members A after which the parts thereof can be uncoupled from the sleeves and withdrawn from the back 4. The stiffeners 8 in the strip 7 can also be withdrawn and the back 4, together with the strips 6, wings 10 and 11 and strip 7, can then be rolled or folded up.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

1. Apparatus for use when practising golf, comprising, in combination, a pair of foldable or collapsible frame members, preferably triangular in shape; top and bottom cross-bars for holding the members apart against collapse to form an upright structure; a fabric back extending between the cross-bars; a fabric strip extending forwardly from the bottom cross-bar at a downward inclination; and a strip, or strips, of fabric freely suspended from the top cross-bar.

2. Apparatus, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein each cross-bar is made in sections adapted to be coupled together by one or more sleeves or equivalent, substantially as described.

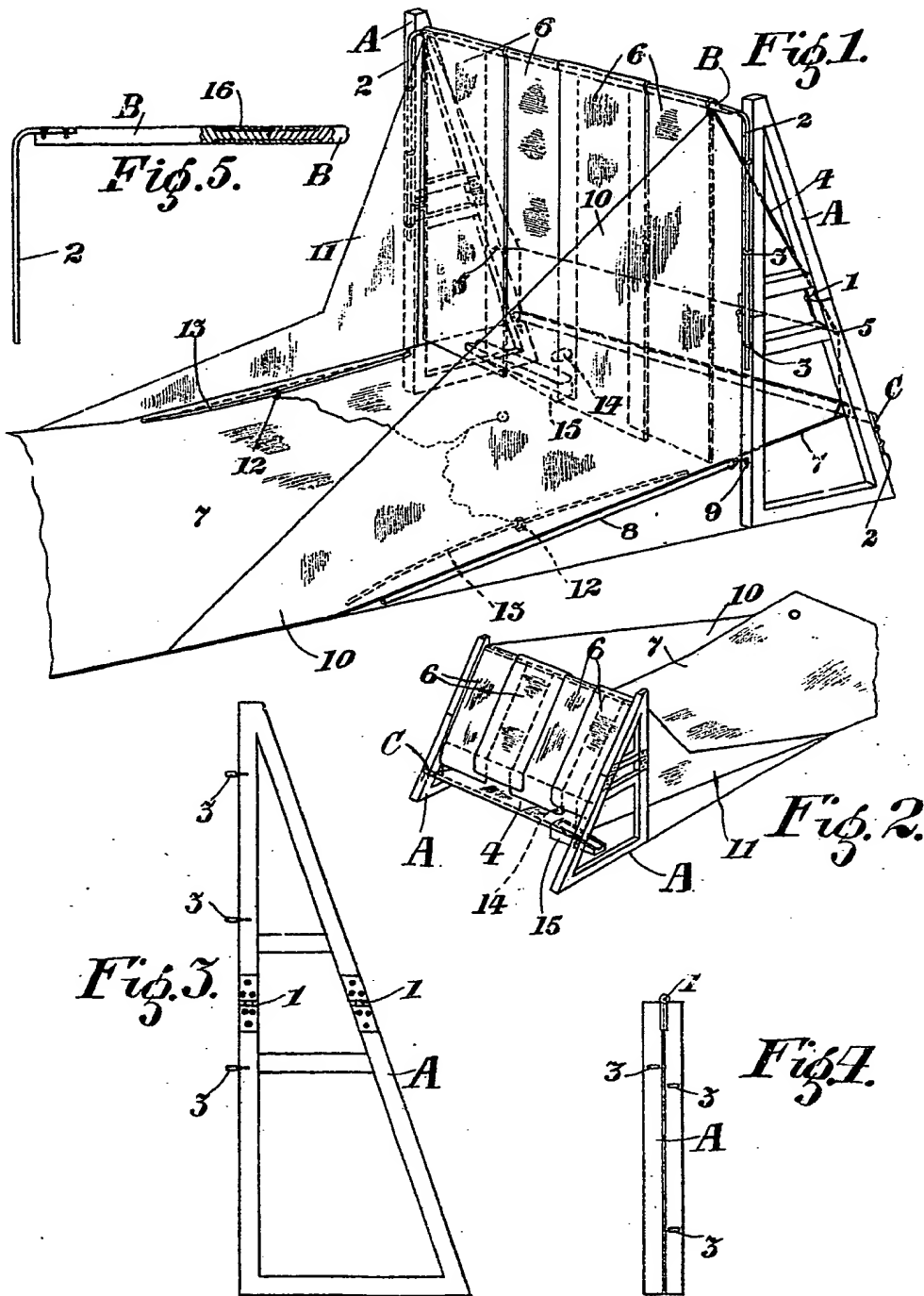
3. Apparatus, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the freely suspended strips are arranged in overlapping relationship, substantially as described.

4. Apparatus for use when practising golf, made substantially as described with reference to the drawing annexed.

Dated this 13th day of January, 1921.

H. D. FITZPATRICK & Co.,
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94, Hope Street, Glasgow.

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale]



Malby & Sons, Photo-Litho